

Dayna Brons



VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

For court use only
Information Number

Victim's Name Dayna Brons Police Service Rcmp
Offence Date Apr 6, 2018 Offence Location Humboldt Broncos Incident/File Number 2018-446743
Bus crash

This form may be used to provide a description of the physical or emotional harm, property damage or economic loss suffered by you as the result of the commission of an offence, as well as a description of the impact of the offence on you. You may attach additional pages if you need more space.

Your statement must not include

- any statement about the offence or the offender that is not relevant to the harm or loss you suffered;
- any unproven allegations;
- any comments about any offence for which the offender was not convicted;
- any complaint about any individual, other than the offender, who was involved in the investigation or prosecution of the offence; or
- except with the court's approval, an opinion or recommendation about the sentence.

You may present a detailed account of the impact the offence has had on your life. The following sections are examples of information you may wish to include in your statement. You are not required to include all of this information.

Emotional impact

Describe how the offence has affected you emotionally. For example, think of:

- your lifestyle and activities;
- your relationships with others such as your spouse, family and friends;
- your ability to work, attend school or study; and
- your feelings, emotions and reactions as they relate to the offence.

See attached.

Physical impact

Describe how the offence has affected you physically. For example, think of:

- ongoing physical pain, discomfort, illness, scarring, disfigurement or physical limitations;
- hospitalization or surgery you have had because of the offence;
- treatment, physiotherapy or medication you have been prescribed;
- the need for any further treatment or the expectation that you will receive further treatment; and
- any permanent or long-term disability.

Economic impact

Describe how the offence has affected you financially. For example, think of:

- the value of any property that was lost or damaged and the cost of repairs or replacement;
- any financial loss due to missed time from work;
- the cost of any medical expenses, therapy or counselling; and
- any costs or losses that are not covered by insurance.

Please note that this is not an application for compensation or restitution.

Fears for security

Describe any fears you have for your security or that of your family and friends. For example, think of:

- concerns with respect to contact with the offender; and
- concerns with respect to contact between the offender and members of your family or close friends.

Drawing, poem or letter

You may use this space to draw a picture or write a poem or letter if it will help you express the impact that the offence has had on you.

☒ I would like to present my statement in court.

To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this statement is true.

Dated this 17 day of January, 2019, at Lake Lenore Saskatchewan

Signature of declarant Carol Blons

If you completed this statement on behalf of the victim, please indicate the reasons why you did so and the nature of your relationship to the victim.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20____, at _____

Signature of declarant _____

Victim Impact Statement of Carol Brons
mother of Dayna Brons.

①

File # 2018-446743

I am trying to put my thoughts and feelings together nine months to the day after we had to say goodbye to our Brown-Eyed Girl, Dayna Marie Brons. I am Carol Brons, mother of Dayna Brons, the only girl on the bus. Dayna succumbed to her injuries five days after the accident on Wednesday, April 11, 2018.

I remember the ^{day} Dayna was born very vividly, just as the day of her death will be as vividly etched on my heart and brain. The surprise of seeing Dayna's full head of dark hair and dark eyes for the first time is overshadowed by the shock that I will never see those beautiful brown eyes ^{again}. This still haunts me and causes enormous pain.

Dayna is the third ~~child~~ of my four children and was born on May 21, 1993. Dayna was generally a happy child but she

②

also did most things with determination. Although Dayna was determined, she ~~did not~~ usually had a smile or at least a smirk on her face. Tears didn't fall easily from Dayna's eyes, but I believe I saw a tear fall as she took her last breath.

Dayna worked hard to achieve her goals and was proud of her accomplishments but Dayna did not seek the spotlight. Dayna took her job seriously, whether it was sports, waiting tables or as an Athletic Therapist. Dayna had her "game" face as well as her relaxed face. There are several pictures of ~~Day~~ Dayna on the bench where she is intent or focused on the action or her players. There are hundreds more ^{pictures} of Dayna's beautiful smile that reaches her eyes. I'll always miss ^{Dayna's} ~~that~~ smile.

Dayna was fairly quiet but she also

③

enjoyed life - from sports, band and dance to watching movies with family and friends. Dayna was up for almost anything, as long as it involved ice cream. Dayna was resilient - from receiving 5 ~~stitch~~ stitches on her forehead on her 5th birthday to re-doing a portion of her Certification exam to become a Certified Athletic Therapist - a title she never got to enjoy.

Becoming a Certified Athletic Therapist was going to be a start of her professional goals. Working for the Humboldt Broncos in the winter and the Saskatchewan SWAT Lacrosse teams in the summer was just starting to lead to other possibilities. Dayna's work ethic was noted by many - coaches and teachers and professors, ~~the~~ classmates and supervisors as well as employers and potential employers. Dayna was able to maintain a friendship with

④

the players while being a big-sister figure to most of them. I have heard numerous stories from former classmates and team mates, employers, teachers and instructors and players about how much Dayna cared, how hard she worked and how great Dayna was at her job. But more importantly, Dayna was caring and compassionate; she truly cared about people of all ages. Some of the stories I heard were stories were about Dayna's interest in others. A ~~S~~ store clerk where Dayna picked up equipment told me Dayna always took the time to ask about her sons who played hockey. If Dayna saw the boys at the rink, she would stop to talk to them ~~and ask about their~~ I was also told ~~a~~ how the door to the trainer's room was always open to even the youngest players who might need a new skate lace or hockey helmet clip. What 24 yr old does

that, Dayna did that.

~~Dayna didn't~~

Dayna cared about the players she worked with but didn't talk about her job much. She made sure ~~the~~ the players received the treatment they needed. Every family told us Dayna was the reason their son got back to playing as quick as they did after an injury.

Dayna was especially patient with young children and her grandparents. She was always willing to visit her grandparents and listen to their stories. Dayna was willing to help me when she could, ~~even~~ as a pre-school child, Dayna liked to help wash the floor and as she grew up Dayna would help plant the garden and ~~start~~ cook meals. Like her siblings, Dayna was expected to help on the farm. Dayna was proud she could drive a standard stick shift ~~or~~ and a combine. I couldn't bring myself to plant a garden the past year because

(6)

Dayna usually helped me. I had difficulty decorating for Christmas because Dayna was always there to help.

Walking in to the rink in Humboldt is still hard. Our season tickets ~~are~~ is above the opposition's players' bench. Dayna would stand on the Bronco team bench and glance over her right shoulder to check if we were at the game. Dayna never commented if we weren't at the game, but she always looked for us. Now I get to see a banner with the years of her birth and death. It is like a punch in the gut everytime I see things like that ^{we have yet to order a} ~~It's another reminder~~ ~~headstone - I~~ ~~this is REAL~~ don't know when I'll be ready, it makes it real.

One of Dayna's favourite things to do in the summer was to run through the rows of corn ^{in the garden}. Dayna's bright eyes sparkled with curiosity and laughter as she ran with out-stretched arms so her hands brushed the corn-stalks. I remember seeing Dayna do this ~~was~~ ^{during} the summer of 2017 - her last summer.

①

Everywhere I look memories pop into my head - memories of the kids playing on the swing, Dayna and her siblings using the swing cross-bars to swing from their hands or legs. Dayna had callouses on her hands as a child because she spent so much time on the monkey bars on the school play structure.

I have memories of Dayna talking in her sleep after an exciting day of Kindergarten. Memories of Dayna wearing dresses everywhere until Gr 1 because that is all she would wear. Memories of Dayna dancing in ~~her~~ the teapot costume I sewed for the dance club. Memories of Dayna going from a dance competition straight to a hockey game and not taking time to remove her makeup. Memories of Dayna playing all kinds of sports throughout the year - soccer, basketball, track + field, fastpitch - only to start over a few weeks later. Dayna

⑧

did what she enjoyed - not what her friends were doing. Memories of her laughter the evening before the collision^{when} - Dayna and her younger brother were laughing hysterically in the basement about Mario Kart. Memories of Dayna's disbelief that none of the Bronco players thought Pocohontas could possibly be the best movie ever. Now these memories are all I have - Dayna will not get to achieve all of her goals. Dayna will not get to have a family with beautiful brown eyes.

The evening of the accident was the beginning of a nightmare or horror movie that won't stop. Dayna's death has created a huge hole in my life! The death of a child is one of the ~~the~~ hardest things to overcome. We were informed of the accident by a text from a co-worker who is also a billet parent. We were not planning to attend the game. We did realize immediately the obvious

(9)

ness of the accident. We decided to drive toward Nipawin about $1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs away thinking it would be minor but it wasn't long before we realized this was more than a fender-bender. Thankfully we never got to the accident scene but were directed to Tisdale Hospital. We were still unaware that a small amount of details were started to be released. We informed our other children about the accident but wanted to know the seriousness before contacting Dayna's partner. First responders & the hospital + medical staff at Tisdale Hospital ~~do~~ did a remarkable job to keep Dayna alive for us to see her briefly before transporting her to Royal University Hospital by STARS. All I remember from the time at Tisdale was the relief that she had survived the collision but seeing Dayna's black eyes and hearing the words head injury, broken bones, intubation, critical condition nearly took my breath away. As we left Tisdale to hurry to RUH in Saskatoon all

(10)

I could think of was - will Dayna survive & to get to Saskatoon? How do I tell her Partner? Her siblings? My 92 year old mother? The drive to Saskatoon seemed to take forever, and once we arrived at RUH, the nightmare just continued * 10A

Dealing with the constant pressure of making decisions, and keeping everyone informed while trying to maintain some privacy was unimaginable. I know my grief has changed my life, into something almost unrecognizable. The stress of trying to make all the correct decisions and keep everyone together has caused me to become indecisive, angry, unfocused and anxious. I am having so ~~any~~ much difficulty taking care of personal and business decisions that things as small as opening the mail has become stressful. I am not able to work right now because the stress of dealing with details while trying to do my job was too much. I have panic attacks trying to decide where to

One of the few personal belongings we were given by the hospital was this necklace. The necklace type I gave Dayna for her birthday several years earlier. Dayna ~~wore it almost~~ rarely wore any other necklace, she was wearing it on April 6, 2018. I haven't taken it out of the Bio Hazard bag - not because it is dirty but because it has several of Dayna's hairs still entangled in it.

(11)

hang a picture I don't remember the last time I had a full night's sleep. I have to turn away if the news is showing pictures or a re-enactment of the collision. I try not to allow myself to think about the ~~the~~ last seconds before the collision. Did Dayna see the truck? Did she cry out in fear and pain? Was ^{Dayna} ~~she~~ unconscious the whole time or was she aware when we were with her? Did she say I love you one last time?

The days we spent in the hospital were surreal. The number of people who wanted to be present to offer support was more than anyone can imagine. Dayna's injuries were extensive with the head injury the most serious. The media and public interest continues to be overwhelming. While Dayna was in hospital we wanted to protect her privacy but in the end we had to ~~can~~ make a media release. Who has to do that? Who has to deal with public relations to draft a media release to announce your daughter's